

E1
Cmt
mediated by the stem-loop bridging oligonucleotide, HBV67 (SEQ. ID NO: 37) (FIG. 12).--

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

ER
sub F1
1. (amended) A synthetic oligonucleotide complementary to a portion of the HBV RNA secondary structure in the epsilon region of the HBV genome comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 7-19 and 45, which oligonucleotide inhibits HBV replication.

Please amend claim 8 as follows:

EB
8. (amended) The synthetic oligonucleotide of claim 1 comprising the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:7.

Please amend claim 9 as follows:

9. (amended) The synthetic oligonucleotide of claim 1 comprising the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 8.

Please amend claim 10 as follows:

SCB
F2
10. (amended) The synthetic oligonucleotide of claim 1 comprising the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 9.

Please amend claim 11 as follows:

11. (amended) The synthetic oligonucleotide of claim 1 comprising the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 10.

Please amend claim 12 as follows:

12. (amended) The synthetic oligonucleotide of claim 1 comprising the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 11.

Please amend claim 13 as follows:

13. (amended) The synthetic oligonucleotide of claim 1 comprising the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 12.

Please amend claim 14 as follows:

14. (amended) The synthetic oligonucleotide of claim 1 comprising the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 13.

Please amend claim 15 as follows:

15. (amended) The synthetic oligonucleotide of claim 1 comprising the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 14.

Please amend claim 16 as follows:

16. (amended) The synthetic oligonucleotide of claim 1 comprising the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 15.

Please amend claim 17 as follows:

17. (amended) The synthetic oligonucleotide of claim 1 comprising the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 16.

Please amend claim 18 as follows:

18. (amended) The synthetic oligonucleotide of claim 1 comprising the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 17.

Please amend claim 19 as follows:

19. (amended) The synthetic oligonucleotide of claim 1 comprising the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 18.

Please amend claim 20 as follows:

20. (amended) The synthetic oligonucleotide of claim 1 comprising the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 19.

Please amend claim 36 as follows:

EB